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1	BRS	L1	1010	705/26,27.ccls.	USPAT; EPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:33
2	BRS	L2	676	1 and (search or searches or find or finds or finding or searching)	USPAT; EPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:34
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4	BRS	L4	27	705/26,27.ccls.	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:33
5	BRS	L5	1022	705/26,27.ccls.	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:34
6	BRS	L6	676	5 and (search or searches or find or finds or finding or searching)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:26
7	BRS	L7	0	6 and (inverse adj document)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:35
8	BRS	L8	0	6 and inverse adj frequency	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:35
9	BRS	L9	105	6 and keyword$1	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:35

	Comments	Error Definition	Err ors
1			0
2			0
3			0
4			0
5			0
6			0
7			0
8			0
9			0
	Comments	Error Definition	Err ors

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
10	BRS	L10	29968	(similar or identical or comparable) near (items or item or auction or auctions or lot or lots or product or products)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:39
11	BRS	L11	29968	(similar or identical or comparable) near (items or item or auction or auctions or lot or lots or product or products)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:40
12	BRS	L12	89	11 and 6	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:39
13	BRS	L13	40515	(similar or identical or comparable) near2 (items or item or auction or auctions or lot or lots or product or products)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 14:40
14	BRS	L14	120	13 and 6	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 15:10
15	BRS	L15	45	(determine or deterimes or determined or determining) adj key adj word$1	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 15:11
16	BRS	L17	7943	(item$1 or product$1 or auction$1 or lot or lots) near2 (description or text)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 15:16
17	BRS	L18	9	15 and 17	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:25

	Comments	Error Definition	Err ors
10			0
11			0
12			0
13			0
14			0
15			0
16			0
17			0

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
18	BRS	L19	360	705/37.ccls.	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:25
19	BRS	L20	232	19 and (search or searches or find or finds or finding or searching)	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:26
20	BRS	L21	24	20 and 13	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:27
21	BRS	L22	3415861	"24" not 14	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:27
22	BRS	L23	13	21 not 14	USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2003/08/27 16:27

	Comments	Error Definition	Errors
18			0
19			0
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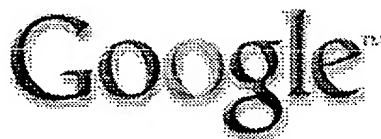
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File 992 - NewsRoom 2003 archive has been newly created and contains
records from January 2003. The oldest months's records roll out of
File 990 and into File 992 on the first weekend of each month.
To search all 2003 records BEGIN 990, 992, or B NEWS2003, a new
OneSearch category.
                  ***
--Connect Time joins DialUnits as pricing options on Dialog.
See HELP CONNECT for information.
                  ***
                  ***
--SourceOne patents are now delivered to your email inbox
as PDF replacing TIFF delivery. See HELP SOURCE1 for more
information.
                  ***
--Important news for public and academic
libraries. See HELP LIBRARY for more information.
                  ***
--Important Notice to Freelance Authors--
See HELP FREELANCE for more information
                  ***
NEW FILES RELEASED
***World News Connection (File 985)
***Dialog NewsRoom - 2003 Archive (File 992)
***TRADEMARKSCAN-Czech Republic (File 680)
***TRADEMARKSCAN-Hungary (File 681)
***TRADEMARKSCAN-Poland (File 682)
                  ***
UPDATING RESUMED
                  ***
RELOADED
***Population Demographics -(File 581)

***CLAIMS Citation (Files 220-222)

REMOVED
                       ***

     >>> Enter BEGIN HOMEBASE for Dialog Announcements <<<
     >>>   of new databases, price changes, etc.   <<<
                       ****
CORE is set ON as an alias for
15,9,623,810,275,624,636,621,813,16,160,148,20,77,35,583,65,2,233,99,473,474,475,278
,634,256,348,349,347.
* * * * See HELP NEWS 225 for information on new search prefixes
and display codes

***   ***

SYSTEM:HOME
Cost is in DialUnits
Menu System II: D2 version 1.7.9 term=ASCII
                    *** DIALOG HOMEBASE(SM) Main Menu ***

 Information:
  1. Announcements (new files, reloads, etc.)
  2. Database, Rates, & Command Descriptions
  3. Help in Choosing Databases for Your Topic
  4. Customer Services (telephone assistance, training, seminars, etc.)
  5. Product Descriptions

 Connections:
  6. DIALOG(R) Document Delivery
  7. Data Star(R)

     (c) 2003 Dialog, a Thomson business.   All rights reserved.

     /H = Help   /L = Logoff   /NOMENU = Command Mode

Enter an option number to view information or to connect to an online
 service. Enter a BEGIN command plus a file number to search a database
(e.g., B1 for ERIC).
? b 410

        27aug03 09:59:14 User264677 Session D36.1
              $0.00   0.157 DialUnits FileHomeBase
     $0.00   Estimated cost FileHomeBase
     $0.00   Estimated cost this search
     $0.00   Estimated total session cost   0.157 DialUnits

File 410:Chronolog(R)   1981-2003/Aug
        (c) 2003 The Dialog Corporation

     Set Items Description
     --- ----- -----------
? set hi ;set hi
HILIGHT set on as ''
HILIGHT set on as ''
? b core,47,635,570,PAPERSMJ,PAPERSEU
>>>   77 does not exist
>>>   278 does not exist
>>>2 of the specified files are not available
        27aug03 10:00:45 User264677 Session D36.2
              $0.00   0.071 DialUnits File410

```
   $0.00   Estimated cost File410
   $0.46   TELNET
   $0.46   Estimated cost this search
   $0.46   Estimated total session cost    0.228 DialUnits


SYSTEM:OS   - DIALOG OneSearch
   File  15:ABI/Inform(R)  1971-2003/Aug 25
          (c) 2003 ProQuest Info&Learning
*File  15: Alert feature enhanced for multiple files, duplicate
removal, customized scheduling. See HELP ALERT.
   File   9:Business & Industry(R)  Jul/1994-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 Resp. DB Svcs.
  .File 623:Business Week  1985-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc
   File 810:Business Wire  1986-1999/Feb 28
          (c) 1999 Business Wire
   File 275:Gale Group Computer DB(TM)  1983-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 The Gale Group
   File 624:McGraw-Hill Publications  1985-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 McGraw-Hill Co. Inc
*File 624: Homeland Security & Defense and 9 Platt energy journals added
. Please see HELP NEWS624 for more
   File 636:Gale Group Newsletter DB(TM)  1987-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 The Gale Group
   File 621:Gale Group New Prod.Annou.(R)  1985-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 The Gale Group
   File 813:PR Newswire  1987-1999/Apr 30
           (c) 1999 PR Newswire Association Inc
   File  16:Gale Group PROMT(R)  1990-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 The Gale Group
*File  16: Alert feature enhanced for multiple files, duplicate
removal, customized scheduling. See HELP ALERT.
   File 160:Gale Group PROMT(R)  1972-1989
          (c) 1999 The Gale Group
   File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  1976-2003/Aug 26
          (c)2003 The Gale Group
*File 148: Alert feature enhanced for multiple files, duplicate
removal, customized scheduling. See HELP ALERT.
   File  20:Dialog Global Reporter  1997-2003/Aug 27
          (c) 2003 The Dialog Corp.
   File  35:Dissertation Abs Online  1861-2003/Jul
          (c) 2003 ProQuest Info&Learning
   File 583:Gale Group Globalbase(TM)  1986-2002/Dec 13
          (c) 2002 The Gale Group
*File 583: This file is no longer updating as of 12-13-2002.
   File  65:Inside Conferences  1993-2003/Aug W4
           (c) 2003 BLDSC all rts. reserv.
   File   2:INSPEC  1969-2003/Aug W3
          (c) 2003 Institution of Electrical Engineers
*File   2: Alert feature enhanced for multiple files, duplicates
removal, customized scheduling. See HELP ALERT.
   File 233:Internet & Personal Comp. Abs.  1981-2003/Jul
          (c) 2003, EBSCO Pub.
   File  99:Wilson Appl. Sci & Tech Abs  1983-2003/Jul
          (c) 2003 The HW Wilson Co.
   File 473:FINANCIAL TIMES ABSTRACTS  1998-2001/APR 02
          (c) 2001 THE NEW YORK TIMES
*File 473: This file will not update after March 31, 2001.
It will remain on Dialog as a closed file.
   File 474:New York Times Abs  1969-2003/Aug 26
          (c) 2003 The New York Times
   File 475:Wall Street Journal Abs  1973-2003/Aug 26
```

```
        (c) 2003 The New York Times
  File 634:San Jose Mercury    Jun 1985-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 San Jose Mercury News
  File 256:SoftBase:Reviews,Companies&Prods.   82-2003/Jul
        (c)2003 Info.Sources Inc
  File 348:EUROPEAN PATENTS   1978-2003/Aug W03
        (c) 2003 European Patent Office
  File 349:PCT FULLTEXT   1979-2002/UB=20030821,UT=20030814
        (c) 2003 WIPO/Univentio
  File 347:JAPIO   Oct 1976-2003/Apr(Updated 030804)
        (c) 2003 JPO & JAPIO
*File 347: JAPIO data problems with year 2000 records are now fixed.
Alerts have been run.   See HELP NEWS 347 for details.
  File  47:Gale Group Magazine DB(TM)   1959-2003/Aug 18
        (c) 2003 The Gale group
  File 635:Business Dateline(R)   1985-2003/Aug 23
        (c) 2003 ProQuest Info&Learning
  File 570:Gale Group MARS(R) .1984-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 The Gale Group
  File 387:The Denver Post   1994-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Denver Post
  File 471:New York Times Fulltext 90-Day  2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 The New York Times
  File 492:Arizona Repub/Phoenix Gaz   19862002/Jan 06
        (c) 2002 Phoenix Newspapers
*File 492: Not updating. See instead File 990 for current
articles from the Arizona Republic.
  File 494:St LouisPost-Dispatch  1988-2003/Aug 25
        (c) 2003 St Louis Post-Dispatch
  File 498:Detroit Free Press   1987-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Detroit Free Press Inc.
  File 631:Boston Globe   1980-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Boston Globe
  File 633:Phil.Inquirer   1983-2003/Aug 25
        (c) 2003 Philadelphia Newspapers Inc
  File 638:Newsday/New York Newsday   1987-2003/Aug 25
        (c) 2003 Newsday Inc.
  File 640:San Francisco Chronicle   1988-2003/Aug 27
        (c) 2003 Chronicle Publ. Co.
  File 641:Rocky Mountain News   Jun 1989-2003/Aug 23
        (c) 2003 Scripps Howard News
  File 702:Miami Herald   1983-2003/Aug 24
        (c) 2003 The Miami Herald Publishing Co.
  File 703:USA Today   1989-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 USA Today
  File 704:(Portland)The Oregonian   1989-2003/Aug 25
        (c) 2003 The Oregonian
  File 713:Atlanta J/Const.   1989-2003/Aug 24
        (c) 2003 Atlanta Newspapers
  File 714:(Baltimore) The Sun   1990-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Baltimore Sun
  File 715:Christian Sci.Mon.   1989-2003/Aug 27
        (c) 2003 Christian Science Monitor
  File 725:(Cleveland)Plain Dealer   Aug 1991-2003/Aug 25
        (c) 2003 The Plain Dealer
  File 735:St. Petersburg Times   1989- 2003/Aug 24
        (c) 2003 St. Petersburg Times
*File 735: This file is not updating. Last update: 20001019
  File 476:Financial Times Fulltext  1982-2003/Aug 27
        (c) 2003 Financial Times Ltd
  File 477:Irish Times   1999-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Irish Times
```

```
   File 710:Times/Sun.Times(London)   Jun.1988-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Times Newspapers
   File 711:Independent(London)   Sep 1988-2003/Aug 26
        (c) 2003 Newspaper Publ. PLC
*File 711: Use File 757 for full current day's news of the Independent, as
as well as full coverage of many additional European news sources.
   File 756:Daily/Sunday Telegraph   2000-2003/Aug 27
        (c) 2003 Telegraph Group
   File 757:Mirror Publications/Independent Newspapers   2000-2003/Aug 27
        (c) 2003


      Set  Items  Description
      ---  -----  -----------
? s (similar or same or comparable) (w) (item or items)
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
Processing
Completed processing all files
         6066678  SIMILAR
        14484881  SAME
         1246944  COMPARABLE
         1015879  ITEM
         2479149  ITEMS
      S1   22263  (SIMILAR OR SAME OR COMPARABLE) (W) (ITEM OR ITEMS)
? s (search or searches or searching or find or finds or finding) (3w) s1
Processing
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
Completed processing all files
         3529027  SEARCH
          304534  SEARCHES
          711931  SEARCHING
         7092203  FIND
         1100676  FINDS
         2103215  FINDING
           22263  S1
      S2     345  (SEARCH OR SEARCHES OR SEARCHING OR FIND OR FINDS OR
                  FINDING) (3W) S1
? s s2 and pd<=20000329
>>>File 15 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=710000 stopped at PD=921013
>>>File 9 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100305 stopped at PD=980606
>>>File 810 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=850116 stopped at PD=911125
>>>File 275 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=140103 stopped at PD=880908
>>>File 624 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=104 stopped at PD=920901
>>>File 636 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19880101 stopped at PD=19940316
Processing
>>>File 621 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=00000000 stopped at PD=19910208
>>>File 813 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100000 stopped at PD=900919
>>>File 16 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19900101 stopped at PD=19950623
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
>>>File 160 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
```

```
>>>     started at PD=2103 stopped at PD=770314
>>>File 148 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=140105 stopped at PD=830502
Processing
Processing
>>>One or more prefixes are unsupported
>>>  or undefined in one or more files.
>>>File 583 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=100001 stopped at PD=881231
>>>File 99 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=DEC.1200 stopped at PD=19910204
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
>>>File 474 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=101111 stopped at PD=740309
>>>File 475 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=191111 stopped at PD=801119
>>>File 634 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=850602 stopped at PD=900910
Processing
>>>File 348 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=78 stopped at PD=990915
Processing
>>>File 347 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=197610 stopped at PD=19830411
>>>File 47 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=590100 stopped at PD=641107
>>>File 635 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=1190 stopped at PD=910602
Processing
>>>File 570 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=19840102 stopped at PD=19910623
Processed  30 of  54 files ...
>>>File 387 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=931204 stopped at PD=990407·
>>>File 492 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=11/10/99 stopped at PD=910625
>>>File 494 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=2/7/2001 stopped at PD=930314
>>>File 498 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=12 stopped at PD=920321
>>>File 631 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=11/14/99 stopped at PD=850219
>>>File 633 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=830101 stopped at PD=880526
>>>File 638 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=25, stopped at PD=920403
>>>File 640 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=850209 stopped at PD=930324
Processing
>>>File 641 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=890523 stopped at PD=940812
>>>File 702 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=801018 stopped at PD=880307
Processed  40 of  54 files ...
>>>File 703 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=880531 stopped at PD=950911
>>>File 704 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=890101 stopped at PD=940327
>>>File 713 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=880117 stopped at PD=940307
>>>File 714 processing for PD=  ·: PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=900903 stopped at PD=951211
```

```
>>>File 715 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=890103 stopped at PD=970325
>>>File 735 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=25UARY stopped at PD=950108
Processing
>>>File 476 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19820102 stopped at PD=19881015
>>>File 710 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=880601 stopped at PD=930908
Processed  50 of  54 files ...
>>>File 711 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=880919 stopped at PD=940825
Completed processing all files
            345   S2
       27636269  PD<=20000329
     S3       57  S2 AND PD<=20000329
? rd s3
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 348.
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 349.
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 347.

>>>Records from unsupported files will be retained in the RD set.
>>>Record 702:2079735 ignored; incomplete bibliographic data, not retained
in RD set
...examined 50 records  (50)
...completed examining records
     S4       53   RD S3 (unique items)
```

Viewed all 3,K

```
? s (online (w) shopping or online (w) auction or online (w) auctions)
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  30 of  54 files ...
Completed processing all files
        4159960  ONLINE
        2055897  SHOPPING
          81079  ONLINE(W)SHOPPING
        4159960  ONLINE
         668978  AUCTION
          35632  ONLINE(W)AUCTION
        4159960  ONLINE
         224168  AUCTIONS
          21184  ONLINE(W)AUCTIONS
    S5  128427  (ONLINE (W) SHOPPING OR ONLINE (W) AUCTION OR ONLINE (W)
                 AUCTIONS)
? s s5 and (search or searching or look or looking or find or finding or finds or
searches or looks) (3w) (item or items or lot or lots or auctions or auction)
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  30 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  40 of  54 files ...
Processing
Completed processing all files
         128427  S5
        3529027  SEARCH
         711931  SEARCHING
        7539061  LOOK
        8306491  LOOKING
        7092203  FIND
        2103215  FINDING
        1100676  FINDS
         304534  SEARCHES
        2526558  LOOKS
        1015879  ITEM
        2479149  ITEMS
        6634746  LOT
        1184485  LOTS
         224168  AUCTIONS
         668978  AUCTION
         140778  ...
    S6    4200  S5 AND (SEARCH OR SEARCHING OR LOOK OR LOOKING OR FIND OR
                 FINDING OR FINDS OR SEARCHES OR LOOKS) (3W) (ITEM OR
                 ITEMS OR LOT OR LOTS OR AUCTIONS OR AUCTION)
?
PLEASE ENTER A COMMAND OR BE LOGGED OFF IN 5 MINUTES
? s s6 and (similar or comparable or same or identical) (3n) (item or auction or
auctions or items or lot or lots)
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  30 of  54 files ...
Processing
Processed  40 of  54 files ...
Completed processing all files
```

```
           4200  S6
        6066678  SIMILAR
        1246944  COMPARABLE
       14484881  SAME
         777896  IDENTICAL
        1015879  ITEM
         668978  AUCTION
         224168  AUCTIONS
        2479149  ITEMS
        6634746  LOT
        1184485  LOTS
          84642  (((SIMILAR OR COMPARABLE) OR SAME) OR
                 IDENTICAL)(3N)(((((ITEM OR AUCTION) OR AUCTIONS) OR
                 ITEMS) OR LOT) OR LOTS)
    S7      349  S6 AND (SIMILAR OR COMPARABLE OR SAME OR IDENTICAL) (3N)
                 (ITEM OR AUCTION OR AUCTIONS OR ITEMS OR LOT OR LOTS)
? s s7 and pd<=20000329
>>>File 15 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=710000 stopped at PD=921013
>>>File 9 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100305 stopped at PD=980606
>>>File 810 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=850116 stopped at PD=911125
>>>File 275 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=140103 stopped at PD=880908
>>>File 624 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=104 stopped at PD=920901
>>>File 636 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19880101 stopped at PD=19940316
Processing
>>>File 621 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=00000000 stopped at PD=19910208
>>>File 813 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100000 stopped at PD=900919
>>>File 16 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19900101 stopped at PD=19950623
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
>>>File 160 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=2103 stopped at PD=770314
>>>File 148 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=140105 stopped at PD=830502
Processing
>>>One or more prefixes are unsupported
>>>  or undefined in one or more files.
>>>File 583 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100001 stopped at PD=881231
Processing
>>>File 99 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=DEC.1200 stopped at PD=19910204
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
>>>File 474 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=101111 stopped at PD=740309
>>>File 475 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=191111 stopped at PD=801119
>>>File 634 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=850602 stopped at PD=900910
>>>File 348 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=78 stopped at PD=990915
Processing
Processing
>>>File 347 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
```

```
>>>     started at PD=197610 stopped at PD=19830411
>>>File 47 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=590100 stopped at PD=641107
>>>File 635 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=1190 stopped at PD=910602
>>>File 570 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=19840102 stopped at PD=19910623
Processed  30 of  54 files ...
>>>File 387 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=931204 stopped at PD=990407
Processing
>>>File 492 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=11/10/99 stopped at PD=910625
>>>File 494 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=2/7/2001 stopped at PD=930314
>>>File 498 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=12 stopped at PD=920321
>>>File 631 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=11/14/99 stopped at PD=850219
>>>File 633 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=830101 stopped at PD=880526
>>>File 638 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=25, stopped at PD=920403
>>>File 640 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=850209 stopped at PD=930324
>>>File 641 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=890523 stopped at PD=940812
Processed  40 of  54 files ...
>>>File 702 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=801018 stopped at PD=880307
Processing
>>>File 703 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=880531 stopped at PD=950911
>>>File 704 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=890101 stopped at PD=940327
>>>File 713 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=880117 stopped at PD=940307
>>>File 714 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=900903 stopped at PD=951211
>>>File 715 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=890103 stopped at PD=970325
>>>File 735 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=25UARY stopped at PD=950108
>>>File 476 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=19820102 stopped at PD=19881015
Processing
Processed  50 of  54 files ...
>>>File 710 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=880601 stopped at PD=930908
>>>File 711 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>     started at PD=880919 stopped at PD=940825
Completed processing all files
             349   S7
         27636269  PD<=20000329
     S8       43   S7 AND PD<=20000329
? rd s8
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 348.
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 349.
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 347.

>>>Records from unsupported files will be retained in the RD set.
...completed examining records
```

```
      S9        38   RD S8 (unique items)
? t s9/3,k/1
```

Viewed all 3,K

```
? s inverse (w) frequency and search???
Processing
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
Completed processing all files
         235271   INVERSE
        1915355   FREQUENCY
            343   INVERSE(W)FREQUENCY
        4314434   SEARCH???
    S10      148   INVERSE (W) FREQUENCY AND SEARCH???
? s s10 and pd<=20000329
>>>File 15 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=710000 stopped at PD=921013
>>>File 9 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100305 stopped at PD=980606
>>>File 810 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=850116 stopped at PD=911125
>>>File 275 processing for PD= .: PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=140103 stopped at PD=880908
>>>File 624 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=104 stopped at PD=920901
Processing
>>>File 636 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19880101 stopped at PD=19940316
>>>File 621 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=00000000 stopped at PD=19910208
>>>File 813 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100000 stopped at PD=900919
>>>File 16 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19900101 stopped at PD=19950623
Processing
Processed  10 of  54 files ...
>>>File 160 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=2103 stopped at PD=770314
>>>File 148 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=140105 stopped at PD=830502
Processing
>>>One or more prefixes are unsupported
>>>  or undefined in one or more files.
>>>File 583 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=100001 stopped at PD=881231
Processing
>>>File 99 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=DEC.1200 stopped at PD=19910204
Processed  20 of  54 files ...
>>>File 474 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=101111 stopped at PD=740309
>>>File 475 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=191111 stopped at PD=801119
>>>File 634 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=850602 stopped at PD=900910
>>>File 348 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=78 stopped at PD=990915
Processing
Processing
>>>File 347 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=197610 stopped at PD=19830411
>>>File 47 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at. PD=590100 stopped at PD=641107
>>>File 635 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=1190 stopped at PD=910602
>>>File 570 processing for PD=  : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19840102 stopped at PD=19910623
```

```
Processed  30 of  54 files ...
>>>File 387 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=931204 stopped at PD=990407
Processing
>>>File 492 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=11/10/99 stopped at PD=910625
>>>File 494 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=2/7/2001 stopped at PD=930314
>>>File 498 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=12 stopped at PD=920321
>>>File 631 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=11/14/99 stopped at PD=850219
>>>File 633 processing for PD= ·: PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=830101 stopped at PD=880526
>>>File 638 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=25, stopped at PD=920403
>>>File 640 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=850209 stopped at PD=930324
>>>File 641 processing for PD=   :. PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=890523 stopped at PD=940812
Processed  40 of  54 files ...
>>>File 702 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=801018 stopped at PD=880307
Processing
>>>File 703 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=880531 stopped at PD=950911
>>>File 704 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=890101 stopped at PD=940327
>>>File 713 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=880117 stopped at PD=940307
>>>File 714 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=900903 stopped at PD=951211
>>>File 715 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=890103 stopped at PD=970325
>>>File 735 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=25UARY stopped at PD=950108
>>>File 476 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=19820102 stopped at PD=19881015
Processed  50 of  54 files ...
>>>File 710 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=880601 stopped at PD=930908
Processing
>>>File 711 processing for PD=   : PD=20000329
>>>    started at PD=880919 stopped at PD=940825
Completed processing all files
            148   S10
        27636269  PD<=20000329
     S11      64  S10 AND PD<=20000329
? rd s11
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 348.
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 349.
>>>Duplicate detection is not supported for File 347.

>>>Records from unsupported files will be retained in the RD set.
...examined 50 records   (50)
...completed examining records
     S12      64   RD S11 (unique items)
? s s12 and amazon
            64   S12
        208224  AMAZON
     S13       0   S12 AND AMAZON
```

00772631
METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXECUTING A GUIDED PARAMETRIC SEARCH
VERFAHREN   UND   SYSTEM ZUM DURCHFUHREN EINER GEFUHRTEN UND PARAMETRISIERTEN
     SUCHE
PROCEDE ET SYSTEME D'EXECUTION D'UNE RECHERCHE PARAMETRIQUE GUIDEE
PATENT ASSIGNEE:
  SAQQARA SYSTEMS, Inc., (2538070), 1230 Oakmead Parkway, Suite 314,
     Sunnyvale, CA 94086, (US), (Proprietor designated states: all)
INVENTOR:
  DANISH, Mohamed, Sherif, 12838 La Cresta Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
     , (US)
  KIMBROUGH, Kris, W., 972-3 Belmont Terrace, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, (US)
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:
  Warren, Francis Charles et al (37341), Baron & Warren 18 South End
     Kensington, London W8 5BU, (GB)
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FULLTEXT AVAILABILITY:

Available Text	Language	Update	Word Count
CLAIMS B	(English)	200307	1086
CLAIMS B	(German)	200307	1139
CLAIMS B	(French)	200307	1178
SPEC B	(English)	200307	10895
Total word count – document A			0
Total word count – document B			14298
Total word count – documents A + B			14298

...SPECIFICATION Number Information Menu and user deselection, the user,
  starting with a single part, may easily **find** a **similar**
  item by deselecting one or more of the selected alternatives 37.

  TRIGGER ALTERNATIVE AND DEPENDANT GROUPING...

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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6609108 B1

TITLE: Communication schema of online
system and method of
                          ordering consumer product having
specific configurations

DATE-ISSUED: August 19, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY
STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY
Pulliam; Timothy E.   Westland
MI   N/A   N/A
Bartkowiak; Don G.   Livonia
MI   N/A   N/A
Champagne; Daryl L.   Northville
MI   N/A   N/A

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ABSTRACT:

    An online communication schema for communicating
online vehicle orders is
provided. The communication schema includes a customer
request message, which
includes an order message having order information, ·
contact information and
vehicle configuration. The order message includes a
fleet order message, a
retail order message, and a tagged order message. The
communication schema
further includes a lead message having lead information,
contact information,
vehicle configuration, and dealer information. The
communication schema
further includes an order confirmation message.

36 Claims, 47 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 40

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (5):
   Accordingly, many retailers have established
"electronic store fronts" to
offer all kinds of products ranging from clothes and
groceries to computers and
automobiles. Conventional electronic store fronts,
however, are often modeled
after traditional catalogs and are limited in the
information disseminated to
the consumer. With typical electronic store fronts, for
example, a consumer is
prompted to search for a desired product by entering one
or more keywords. A
search result of relevant items is then displayed along
with a product
description and price. The customer then places the
desired items in an
"electronic shopping cart," which the customer uses to
place an order with the
on-line merchant. If an item is not in the merchant's
inventory, the customer
is informed either immediately or within a prescribed
period of time. If the
customer is dissatisfied or unwilling to wait or desires
to purchase the item
elsewhere, the customer then returns to the store front
or calls the on-line
merchant to cancel or change the order.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (7):
   A shortcoming of conventional systems, however, is
that product status and
tracking information is available only after an order is
placed. No
information is available to the consumer, prior to the
placement of the order,
relating to the availability or status of a matching or
similar configured
product already in the product's manufacturing and
delivery process or
so-called "product pipeline." For example, conventional
systems do not provide
real-time information relating to inventory, in-transit
stock, scheduled and
unscheduled orders, etc., that may influence the
consumer's decision to order
or not order the configured product. Such information

may be important to a
consumer who may choose to select or not select a
particular option because of
a lack of inventory or delay in scheduled production.
Also, in cases where
time is of the essence, such information may be used to
notify a customer that
the configured product is not readily available. A new
order can therefore be
placed or a preexisting one updated without the customer
having to cancel a
previously submitted order. The availability of status
and tracking
information, prior to the placement of an order by the
consumer, can therefore
be used to minimize the risk that the customer will
become inconvenienced and
dissatisfied with the merchant's on-line ordering
services.

Drawing Description Text - DRTX (14):
    FIG. 12 is a diagram of an embodiment of a search
request message schema
according to the teachings of the present invention;

Drawing Description Text - DRTX (15):
    FIG. 13 is a diagram of an embodiment of a search
result message schema
according to the teachings of the present invention;

Detailed Description Text - DETX (3):
    FIG. 1 is a flow diagram of a preferred method for
ordering and tracking
consumer products. As shown in FIG. 1, a consumer
desiring to purchase a
product first selects and configures the product as
desired based upon
available product features or options, as shown in block
10. Dealer inventory
and "in-process" product inventory are then searched to
locate products that
matched or substantially matched the consumer selected
product configuration,
as shown in block 20. An in-process product is defined
as a product that is on
the order bank to be manufactured, a product in the
manufacturing process, or a
product that is in transit to the retail outlet or

dealerships. If no matching
or otherwise acceptable at-dealer or in-process product
can be located, then
the consumer is provided the option to order the
configured product, as shown
in block 30. If a matching or similar product is
located, then the located
product is "tagged" or designated for purchase and/or
delivery to the consumer.
The consumer is then notified that a product has been
located and tagged, and
may be further notified that the actual purchase or
delivery of such product
may be conditioned, for example, upon payment or credit
verification. The
consumer may be warned that there is a possibility that
the vehicle has been
tagged or sold to someone who may have purchased the
vehicle prior to the
consumer's effort to locate and tag the vehicle. This
may occur due to lag
time in updating the inventory databases. The consumer
is then provided an
estimated product delivery date. Real-time status and
tracking information
regarding the progress of the ordered or tagged through
the product pipeline is
also provided, as shown in block 40.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (7):
    FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of
a system 310 for
product ordering and tracking in accordance with the
teachings of the present
invention. Although the system 310 is shown as a
web-based system for ordering
and tracking custom vehicles, the system 310 may be
modified as known and
understood by those of skill in the art for ordering and
tracking various other
consumer products over any intranet, extranet or other
suitable type of
communications network. System 310 in particular
provides on-line customers
the ability to enter vehicle search criteria, and search
for the vehicle in the
dealership inventory and in-process. If the search does
not yield a vehicle
satisfying the search criteria, then a customer may
search for near-match

vehicles or place a custom order for the desired vehicle.
 In this way, the
customer is provided immediate feedback as to the
availability of the vehicle
not only in inventory but also in the pipeline at the
manufacturer leading to
the dealer. The customer is also afforded satisfactory
alternatives that lead
to the completion of a sale.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (11):
    After the on-line consumer selects the vehicle make
and model,
configurations and options, he/she may submit the vehicle
selection and perform
a search in inventory to determine if one is currently
available. Inventory
database 322 receives its data from an inventory importer
328, which obtains
inventory data from dealers 330 for their current
inventory. Dealers 330 may
also represent any sales entity that has an inventory of
products for sale or
lease to the public or to businesses. Inventory importer
328 further obtains
data from an inventory packager 368 within the enterprise
mainframe and data
center 360 of the manufacturer for data on vehicles
in-transit from the
manufacturing plant to the dealers, in manufacturing, and
on the order bank.
Therefore the entire product pipeline is searched for a
match or a near match,
if so desired. If no match or near match is found, the
consumer may place a
custom order for the vehicle. Inventory importer 328 is
responsible for
obtaining the relevant data from one or more sources,
reformatting the data as
necessary, and storing the data in inventory database
322.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (16):
   FIG. 4 is a simplified flowchart of an embodiment of
the web-based custom
vehicle tracking and ordering process 400 according to
the teachings of the
present invention. A user accesses a World Wide Web web
page, as shown in

block 402. The consumer is then able to enter or select from pull-down lists
or other types of lists the vehicle make, model, color, configurations and
options, as shown in block 404. System 310 of the present invention then
searches for vehicles matching the entered criteria in dealership inventory and
in-process. Two alternate methods of searching and locating a matching vehicle
are shown in FIGS. 4A-4B and FIG. 5.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (17):
    Referring to block 106 in FIG. 4A, the system begins by first searching in
dealership inventory. The search may be performed by accessing inventory
database 322. If a vehicle is not found, system 310 then searches database 322
for matching vehicles that are in-transit, as shown in block 408. If a vehicle
is not found, then system 310 searches inventory database 322 for vehicles that
are in-plant being manufactured, assembled, etc., as shown in block 410. If
such a vehicle is still not located, then system 310 searches for a matching
vehicle that is on the order bank to be constructed, as shown in block 412.
All vehicles matching the search criteria are displayed, as shown in block 414.
If no vehicle matching the criteria is located, then near matches are searched
in inventory database 322 if so instructed by the consumer, as shown in block
416.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (18):
    Referring to FIG. 5, an alternate method 430 of searching for and locating a
vehicle matching or substantially matching the entered criteria is shown.
Similarly, the consumer accesses the system via portal web pages, and enters
desired vehicle configuration and options, as shown in blocks 432 and 434.
Dealership inventory and in-process vehicles are searched for a match or near
match, as shown in block 436. In block 438, all found

vehicles are sorted
according to how closely it matched the entered search criteria, from highest
percentage to lowest percentage. The vehicles may further be sorted by status,
for example, in-inventory vehicles are grouped together, in-transit vehicles
are grouped together, etc. The sorted found vehicles are then displayed to the
consumer, as shown in block 440.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (19):
    Returning to FIG. 4B, if no match or near match is found, if the consumer
does not want to search for near matches, or the consumer is not satisfied with
any found vehicle in the search result, the consumer may indicate that he/she
desires to place a custom order, as shown in block 418. If the consumer does
not desire to place a custom order at this time, then the vehicle selection
criteria may be saved in a database, such as prospective buyer database 336, as
shown in blocks 420 and 422. The process ends in block 424.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (20):
    If, on the other hand, the search located a vehicle matching or nearly
matching the selection criteria, the consumer may "tag" or place a "hold" on
the vehicle, as shown in block 440. In order to reserve a vehicle, the
consumer is asked to provide credit and/or other financial information, as
shown in block 442. Typically, a consumer is asked to provide a credit card
account number from which a predetermined amount or a certain percentage of the
vehicle price is charged to hold the selected vehicle. Alternatively, the
consumer may opt to merely save the vehicle configuration and option selection
and postpone the purchasing decision until later, as shown in block 420.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (21):

In block 444, after the consumer has decided to hold a vehicle and have
provided the credit information, a summary of the selected vehicle and the
transaction may be displayed to the consumer. This page may be saved or
printed by the consumer as a receipt. In block 446, a vehicle delivery
schedule projection may be displayed. The vehicle delivery schedule may
indicate that the vehicle is immediately available if it is currently on the
lot of a dealership or in two months in the case of a custom order, for
example. This step may also be performed simultaneously with the search result
information in block 414. The consumer may further select a means of reporting
the vehicle delivery status and a frequency for the report, as shown in block
448. For example, the consumer may elect to receive status update reports via
email, facsimile, or a web page. The status update reports may further provide
an updated delivery date, if it is changed from the original date due to
changes in the manufacturing or transportation schedule. The process ends in
block 424.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (23):
    Referring to FIGS. 7A-7C, a more detailed block diagram of an embodiment of
the web-based custom vehicle ordering and tracking system 600 according to the
teachings of the present invention is shown. System 600 includes multiple web
sites or portals, such as BuyerConnection.com.TM. 602 and Fleet.com.TM. 604,
which provide an online interface to consumers 601 and fleet consumers 603 via
the Internet. These portals or web sites communicate with a web server 605,
which processes consumer requests and generates responses thereto. For
example, a consumer 601 may select a number of options and features for the
product (an automobile, for example). A configuration engine 606 and
configuration/pricing database 608 are used to provide

product configuration
and pricing information. The consumer may then submit a search request to
BuyerConnection.com 602 to locate a vehicle with the selected options and
features in dealer inventory, in-transit, in production, or on the order banks.
BuyerConnection.com then generates a locate request and sends it to web server
605 (L1). In one embodiment of the present invention, the locate request is an
XML (extended markup language) message, that specifies a set of desired vehicle
attributes or criteria, the relative importance of each criterion, and the type
of information to be returned by the search. For example, the response may be
a summary of a list of vehicles or detailed information of a few selected
vehicles. Web server 605 routes the search request to a locate inventory
process 610, which is responsible for locating the product which matches or
nearly matches the search criteria submitted by the consumer.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (24):
   Locate inventory process 610 accesses an inventory database 612, which
contains the updated inventory data at all the dealerships and products
in-process (in-transit, in production, and on the order bank). An inventory
data importer 614 performs the inventory data import batch process in a
periodic manner, such as nightly, to update the data in inventory database 612.
Inventory data importer 614 may use a modem dial-up connection, file transport
protocol (FTP) and/or other mechanism to pull inventory records from the
dealerships. A data cleansing or inventory data verification process may be
used to remove spelling mistakes and verify the VIN (vehicle identification
number) against the make, model, and other features of the vehicle. The data
cleansing process ensures that the inventory data is in a consistent and
accurate format that is suitable for consumer searching.

and display. Inventory
database 612 may be batch processed or updated in
real-time as necessary so
that the most recent data is available for searching.
Weekly full extract may
be performed in addition to nightly updates on new data.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (25):
    A second input to locate process 610 and inventory
database 612 is an
enterprise vehicle information process 660, which
contains and processes data
related to vehicles that are in-process. Locate
inventory process 610 searches
inventory database 612 and returns a list of matches and
near matches (L2),
preferably in decreasing order of matching percentile.
The consumer may peruse
the list and decide to tag a vehicle on the list. He or
she can submit a tag
request message (L3). The tag request message is sent
from a workflow manager
622 to web server 605. The data in inventory database
612 associated with the
selected vehicle is updated to indicate that it has been
tagged and that
subsequent searches should yield results with the tagged
vehicle suppressed.
Preferably, a consumer is able to tag a vehicle only
after a down payment has
been paid or the consumer's credit has been approved, for
example. A consumer
may tag a vehicle that is in inventory, in-transit, in
production, or on the
order bank. A tag response message (L4) is then
generated and returned to
workflow manager 622 to confirm that the selected vehicle
has been successfully
tagged for purchase. The response may be formatted and
displayed to the
consumer to indicate success or failure and perhaps also
provide an estimate of
the vehicle delivery or available date. A tag order
message (O3) is generated
and sent to workflow manager process 622 for processing.
Workflow manager
process 622 is one or more application servers which
process vehicle orders and
conveys this order to dealerships 624.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (26):
    If the search response indicates that no match was
found or the consumer is
not satisfied with the near matches, the consumer has the
option of placing a
custom order for a vehicle with the desired options and
features (O1 or O2).
Fleet orders (O1) placed by fleet consumers are routed
via web server 605 to a
B2B server 640, which in turn sends the order to an order
process 644 via an
intranet server 642. B2B server 640 is preferably
situated in an intranet
environment behind a firewall that safeguards it from the
outside world. Order
process 644 processes the fleet order and then sends it
to a corporate on-line
communications entry point system (CONCEPS) 648 via an
SNP server gateway 646.
CONCEPS generates a new order, which is put on an order
bank 656.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (34):
    As described above, external applications are operable
to submit search
requests to locate process 610 to find vehicles
in-process and at dealership
which match or substantially match the search criteria.
The search requests
may be submitted in the form of XML (extended markup
language) messages and the
responses be received in an XML. The search request
messages contain the
search criterion, the relative importance or weight of
each criteria, and the
type of data to be returned. A client or presentation
application may request
information for a number of reasons. For example, the
client application may
request a list of identifier and value pairs for a number
of criteria, such as
make and model of the desired vehicle. The returned
values are then used to
populate the criteria definition elements of the client
application user
interface, such as pull-down lists of available makes and
models. The client
application may then compile the user selected criteria
preferences into a

second XML message that requests a list of matching vehicles in inventory
database 612. The returned response message may be compatible with known
formats, such as the auto-lead data format (ADF).

Detailed Description Text - DETX (35):
    Referring to FIG. 8, a message flow diagram of an embodiment of the locate
process according to the present invention is shown. The locate process
includes a configure client 854 and a locate client 862 that reside in a client
side application 850, and a locate server 821 in the server side application.
A consumer calls up or downloads web pages 852 to enter the desired make,
model, options and features of the product, a configure message 853 is
generated and sent to configure client 854. The consumer may also submit the
same product criteria in a configure message 861 of the desired product via a
web page 860 to search or locate vehicles matching or generally matching the
search criteria. Configure message 861 is sent to locate client 862, which
generates a locate search request message 863 containing the configuration
content of configure message 861 and routes it to a locate server 821. Locate
server 821 parses and uses the search criteria in the locate search request to
query inventory database 612. Search results are then returned to locate
server 821. Locate server 821 then generates a response message 865 containing
a summary of the matched vehicles and sends it back to locate client 862. The
returned response is parsed, formatted and stored in a database 869. The list
of vehicles that match or generally match the submitted criteria is then
displayed as content in a web page 855 to the consumer.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (39):
    Parser 904 reads the request messages and parses out specific portions
thereof, which are passed as parameters to the underlying

search processes via
a dispatcher 906. Each parser 904 is persistent until a response is received
from dispatcher 906. The content of the request messages generally includes
request conditions or request criteria. Request conditions include required
fields, optional fields, relevance weights, maximum record count, etc. Request
criteria include specific vehicle configuration, such as make, model, options,
and features to search for. Two types of vehicle searches are supported, one
that returns a summary of vehicles that fits the search criteria, and one that
returns detailed information of selected vehicles or a smaller subset of
vehicles.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (40):
   Dispatcher 906 examines the content of incoming parameters received from
parser 904 and determines which underlying locate server function is needed to
process the request. For example, the request may be a search request for
vehicles that match a set of criteria or a tag request on a particular vehicle.
Dispatcher 906 may examine the parameters against business rules defined for
the requesting application, and replace any offending parameters with
permissible parameters. Dispatcher 906 may also provide the overall locate
server monitoring and control functions for spawning additional processes or
threads to service incoming requests, and to manage the overall creation and
destruction of pooled database sessions.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (42):
   Search values are returned from inventory database 612 to searcher 908,
which passes the returned values to dispatcher 906 and then to parser 904.
Parser 904 constructs a response XML message and sends it to the requesting
application.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (43):
    Processing on the locate client side according to the teachings of the
present invention is shown in FIG. 10. A message converter 922 is operable to
receive an XML document from the configure process and search criteria
parameters as input to generate a locate request XML formatted document output.
Using message converter 922, applications are not required to modify their
application when new versions of communication schemas are rolled out. Message
converter 922 is also operable to accept text inputs to generate a locate
request document. A sub-function of message converter 922 is a tag parser that
creates supported tag messages and returns the status from the tag response
message.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (46):
    Referring to FIG. 11, a block diagram of an embodiment of a search engine
962 of the locate process is shown. Search engine 962 includes at least two
layers or tiers--a business tier 964 overlaying a data tier 966. Data tier 966
includes inventory database 612, which contains data on enterprise-wide in
inventory and in-process products. Data tier 966 also includes a
DataObj.InventorySimpleSearch object 976.
DataObj.InventorySimpleSearch object
976 exposes a set of methods that may be called by business tier 964 to search
inventory database 612. Business tier 964 includes a BusinessASP.Listener
object 972 and a BusinessObj.BusinessObject object 974.
BusinessObject object
974 is the main component that implements the business rules and validates user
privilege. The listener object 972 parses the request XML messages received
from the web sites and interprets the information for the BusinessObject. The
listener object 972 is also operable to generate the XML reply messages. A
Locate.ASP page 970 is operable to fetch the request XML

messages received from
the web sites and passes it to the listener object 972.
Locate.ASP page 970 is
also operable for pushing the reply XML messages back to
the web site that
submitted the search request messages.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (47):
    A search request can be submitted to search engine 962
by using the HTTP by
posting an XML request message to Locate.ASP page 970.
Locate.ASP page 970 may
respond by returning a reply XML message containing the
search results. The
search request is contained in the body of an HTTP
message and the search
result is contained in the body of a returned HTTP
message. A valid user name
and password with the necessary privilege is required to
post a request to the
Locate.ASP page 970.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (48):
    A number of alternative means of initiating the locate
search request is
available depending on the operating system. For
example, on the Windows NT
4.0 platform, the request message may be posted using the
Winlnet.TM. API
(application program interface), the WINSOCK.TM. API, or
the
Microsoft.XMLHTTP.TM.. Other means are available as
known in the art.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (49):
    Optionally, the search request message can be
submitted to search engine 802
by passing the XML message to a Business.Listener COM
(common object model)
object. This object exposes a single method,
ProcessXMLRequest, that accepts
the XML message as a string.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (50):
    Search engine 802 will accept a search request
submitted by web sites that
has a valid user name and password with the necessary

privileges. Roles are
assigned to the web sites that identify the web sites and
its available
functionality. Business tier 804 verifies that the web
site has the correct
role to perform the requested task. A site role uniquely
identifies the web
site that is using the user name to request service from
search engine 802.
For example, the BuyerConnection.com web site is required
to have the
SiteBuyerConnection role. The site role assignments are
used to accomplish
site-specific validations. A second role, functionality
role, is used to
identify the privilege of the user or web site. For
example, to search the
dealer inventory database, the user needs the
FunctionalitySearchDealerInventoryDatabase role assigned
thereto.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (51):
    As described above, the locate processes involves
generating and sending XML
messages in one embodiment, such as sending search
request XML messages and
search response XML messages. XML is primarily used to
support
application-to-application data exchange formats, such as
that found in
traditional EDI (electronic data interchange) over the
Internet. The format of
these XML messages are now described. It should be noted
that the XML
implementation of the messages is but one embodiment of
the messaging schema,
and that other languages and communication schemes can
also be used.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (54):
    A search request message contains a specification of a
set of vehicle
attributes to be searched. For example, a search request
message may have the
format 1000 shown in FIG. 12. A search request tag 1002
is the top level tag
for the locate request. A request message may include
many request parameters
that describe many attributes, with each following the

same general format
shown. Each search request 1002 includes a criteria tag
1004, which "wraps"
all criterion 1006 for one search query. The valid
values for criterion
include dealer, make, model, and other options and
features. <ElementType
name="Criterion" content="eltOnly" order="seq">
<Attribute Type
name="type" dt:type="enumeration" dt:values="vin dealer
make model year package
engine transmission tires exteriorpaint interiortrim
roofcolor seattrim
accentcolor stage option msrp bodystyle vehicletype
category askingprice
condition wheels audiotype"/> <Attribute Type
name="required"
dt:type="boolean" required="yes"/> <Attribute Type
name="weight"
dt:type="number"/> <attribute type="type"/>
<attribute
type="required"/> <attribute type="weight"/>
<element type="Value"
minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="*"/> <element type="Range"
minOccurs ="0"
maxOccurs="*"/> </ElementType>

Detailed Description Text - DETX (56):
    Referring to FIG. 13, an embodiment of the format of a
search response 1020
is specified by search results tag 1022. Search results
tag 1022 include an
errors tag 1024 and a vehicles tag 1026. Errors tag 1024
is used to return
information if the search is unsuccessful. Vehicles tag
1026 contains data on
one or more vehicle 1027 that fits the search criteria.
An identification tag
1028 contains a unique VIN and/or stock number that is
used to identify the
vehicle. A status tag 1029 contains the status of the
vehicle, including
condition, process tag, days in inventory, and
description. A dealer code tag
1030 contains an identifier that specifies the dealership
that has the vehicle
in inventory. Configured model tag 1031 is used to
specify detailed
information of the vehicle, including price information
(type, value, currency)

1032, make (code, description) 1033, model (code, name, year, trim,
description) 1034, engine specifications (code, displacement, number of
cylinders, fuel type) 1035, transmission specifications (code, type, speed,
description) 1036, exterior paint color (code, description) 1037, wheel
specifications (code, diameter, description) 1038, tire specifications (code,
manufacturer, description) 1039, seat trim color 1040, interior trim materials
1041, audio system specifications (code, radio, cassette, CD, description)
1042, two-wheel or four-wheel drive 1043, cab style 1044, body style 1045, rear
axle ratio 1046, payload package (extra payload or towing capacity) 1047, wheel
base length 1048, roof color 1049, number of doors 1050, accent color (such as
exterior paint color for the bottom half of the vehicle) 1051, spare tire
specification 1052, preferred equipment package (PEP) 1053, option package
1054, stand alone options 1055, and any error message 1056. Lastly, warranty
information is contained in a warranty parameter 1057.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (60):
   The tagged configuration parameter 1084 contains data of the tagged vehicle:
VIN 1085, stock number 1086, item number 1087, order line number 1088, matched
configuration 1089, configured model 1090, tagged dealer 1121, selected dealer
1122, vehicle initial status 1123 (new, used, in-stock), and locate search
identifier 1124. Stock number 1086 is a number assigned to the vehicle by the
dealer, item number 1087 is a number assigned to the vehicle by the enterprise
mainframe. Matched configuration 1089 is a Boolean value (true or false) that
indicates whether the tagged vehicle is exactly the same as the configured
vehicle. Locate search identifier 1124 identifies the tagged configuration
selected by the customer to place an order. The configured model 1090
parameter contains the same data on the configured

vehicle, including prices
1091 (tag for price information), price 1092 (price offered to the Internet
customer, manufacturer's suggested retail price, invoice price), make 1093,
model 1094, engine specifications 1095, transmission specifications 1096,
exterior paint color 1097, wheels 1098, tires 1099, seat trim 1100, interior
trim 1101, audio type 1102, drive 1103, cab 1104, body style 1105, rear axle
ratio 1106, payload package 1107, wheel base 1108, roof color 1109, number of
doors 1110, accent color 1111, spare tire 1112, PEP 1113, PEP package content
1114, option package 1115, option package content 1116, stand alone options tag
1117 for stand alone option 1118, errors tag 1119 for error 1120.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (61):
   Tagged dealer 1121 is a tag for the dealer code of the dealer that has the
requested vehicle. Selected dealer 1122 is the tag for the dealer code that
the customer has selected from whom to purchase the vehicle. Vehicle initial
status 1123 is the new, used, or in-stock status of the vehicle when it is
tagged. Locate search identifier 1124 is used to identify the tagged
configuration selected by the consumer to place the order.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (65):
   FIG. 17 is a more detailed block and flow diagram of an embodiment of new
order processing according to the teachings of the present invention. A
consumer 601 submits a new order 1200 to a web site 602, which is constructed
as an interface between the vehicle manufacturer and the customers. As
described previously, the consumer has performed a search and has selected a
vehicle that satisfies the consumer's selection criteria. Web site 602
retrieves vehicle configuration information 1201 from configuration and pricing

database 608, and customer data 1202 from common
membership database 672 via
interface 670. Web site 602 sends a request 1203 for
credit card authorization
to a credit card process 1232, which returns a credit
card authorization reply
1204 to web site 602. Web site 602 also sends an order
number request 1205 to
an order number generator 620, which generates a unique
order number 1206 used
to identify the order. Web site 602 provides an order
confirmation 1207 with
the received order number to consumer, which is displayed
on a web page. Web
site 602 provides a new order message 1028 to workflow
manager 622, which
forwards the new order information 1209 to prospect/buyer
database 630 and to
B2B server 640 in the form of a new order message 1210.
B2B server 640
forwards new order message 1211 to order process 644.
Order process 644 then
sends the new order information 1212 to SNA server 646,
which also sends the
new order information 1213 to CONCEPS 648. CONCEPS 648
forwards the new order
1214 to order bank 656. CONCEPS 648 sends the dealer
order data portion 1215
of the new order to dealer order database 650. CONCEPS
648 then returns edit
results 1216 to SNA server 646, which forwards the
information 1217 to order
process 644.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (67):
    FIG. 18 is a more detailed block and flow diagram of
an embodiment of tag
order processing according to the teachings of the
present invention. A
consumer 601 submits a tag order 1300 to web site or
portal 602, which is
constructed as an interface between the vehicle
manufacturer and the customers.
Web site 602 receives a vehicle configuration message
1301 from vehicle
configuration and pricing database 608 and receives
information 1302 on vehicle
inventory search from locate process 610. Customer
profile data 1303 are also
stored into common membership database 672 via common

membership database
interface 670. Web site 602 also submits a credit card
authorization request
1304 to a credit card processor 1220, which then returns
a reply 1305. Web
site 602 also sends an order number request 1306 to order
number generator 620,
which then returns a unique order number 1307. The
process by which the order
numbers are generated is shown in FIG. 23 and described
below. Web site 602
then sends an order confirmation 1308 to consumer 601
with the generated order
number.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (68):
    Thereafter, web site 602 sends a tag order message
1309 to workflow manager
622, which forwards the new tag order information to
prospect/buyer database
630. A temporary inventory tag message 1311 is then sent
from workflow manager
622 to locate process 610. A temporary tag is used
initially when an Internet
consumer requests to tag or reserve a vehicle. When a
vehicle is temporarily
tagged, it is not returned in subsequent search results.
Locate process 610
updates the data in the inventory database and sends a
tag response message
1312 back as confirmation. Workflow manager 622 also
informs dealer 624 by
sending a new tag order 1313.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (69):
    Periodically or when necessary, workflow manager 622
and dealer 624
communicate to inform one another of inventory
availability follow-up an status
updates 1314. Prospect/buyer database 630 is updated by
order status updates
1315 from workflow manager 622. Workflow manager 622, at
the request of dealer
624 or consumer 601, may also send request messages 1316
to permanently tag or
untag a vehicle in the database. A permanent tag is
typically submitted by a
dealer through the workflow manager to indicate that the
transaction is

completed on a vehicle that had been previously temporarily tagged. A permanent tag message deletes the vehicle from the inventory database. An untag message is used to cancel a temporary tag on a vehicle. The untag message allows the specified vehicle to again be searched pursuant to subsequent search requests. An untag message may be submitted by a dealer, the CAC/BAC, CSR, consumer, or via locate administrative process that searches for expired temporary tags. A temporary tag automatically expires after a predetermined period, such as 30 days, for example. Customer service representatives 632 also updates or is updated by dealer 624 regarding inventory availability follow-up and status updates 1317. Dealer 624 also sends a credit card payment request 1318 to workflow manager 622, which sends the request 1319 to credit card processor 1220.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (99):
     Report process 666 is operable to capture and store a variety of data from several components of the system, and then to display and print reports selected by the user. The consumer web sites 602 or the presentation applications capture data generated by user activity at the web site. For example, the user's click stream data and the session identifier are captured. If the user invokes an auxiliary information application at the web site to calculate the amount of interest on the car loan, for example, then that information is also captured. If the user generates a vehicle configuration, a configuration identifier will also be generated and captured. At the end of a session, an XML message is generated to include the entire session detailed data, identifiers, and click stream data, which is then sent to web server 605. For example, the XML message may include the web site identifier, session identifier, configuration identifiers, customer zip code,

auxiliary information
application invocation, configuration click stream for each configuration
identifier done during the session, vehicle configuration specification for
each configuration identifier, whether locate search results were selected,
session start date and time, session end date and time, and the entry point and
exit points.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (100):
    The transport of the session data message may be a pseudo-real time or batch
process that is run at the end of each session, or periodically, for example.
Web server 605 then sends the messages to a report log utility of a report data
collector 1154, which may perform some data cleansing function, such as parsing
the message and correcting errors. Data collector 1154 then sends the update
data to report data warehouse 668 periodically, such as once a day, via batch
feed, for example. In addition, a copy of all the XML messages generated in
the presentation applications and sent to workflow manager 622 are also routed
to data collector 1154. The messages include tagged orders, retail orders,
leads, vehicle searches, session data, status updates, and lead/order updates.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (101):
    After a complete configuration, the user may search the selected
configuration in inventory database 612. Locate process 610 is operable to
pass a copy of the search result message to report log utility 1930. For each
search results message, the session identifier, configuration identifier, and
the match relevance for each criteria, are provided to the report process.
Report data collector 1154 is operable to parse the XML message and extract the
match relevance count for each criteria to pass to report data warehouse 668.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (115):
    Constructed and operating in this manner, a customer is afforded the
opportunity to specify the desired configuration and options of a product to
search the inventory for availability. The vehicle availability anywhere along
the pipeline from the manufacturer to the dealership may be determined. The
customer may tag a vehicle that is currently anywhere in the pipeline that fits
his/her criteria for purchase. In the event that the specified product is not
currently available, the customer may place a custom order for the product.
Therefore, the customer is able to make a purchase on a product or vehicle that
he/she desires and track the status of the vehicle when it is custom ordered
and manufactured.

Claims Text - CLTX (12):
    12. The communication schema, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the vehicle
configuration of a tagged order message further comprises: a vehicle
identifier; a stock number; an item number; a dealer identifier of a dealer
having the tagged vehicle in inventory; a dealer identifier of a dealer
selected by the user from whom to purchase the tagged vehicle; a vehicle
initial status indicative of whether the vehicle is new or used; and a locate
search identifier specifying the selected vehicle configuration.

Claims Text - CLTX (24):
    24. The communication schema, as set forth in claim 15, wherein the vehicle
configuration further comprises: a vehicle identifier; a stock number; an
item number; a dealer identifier of a dealer having the tagged vehicle in
inventory; a dealer identifier of a dealer selected by the user from whom to
purchase the tagged vehicle; a vehicle initial status indicative of whether

the vehicle is new or used; and a locate search identifier specifying the
selected vehicle configuration.

Claims Text - CLTX (34):
   34. The method, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the vehicle configuration
information further comprises: a vehicle identifier; a stock number; an item
number; a dealer identifier of a dealer having the tagged vehicle in
inventory; a dealer identifier of a dealer selected by the user from whom to
purchase the tagged vehicle; a vehicle initial status indicative of whether
the vehicle is new or used; and a locate search identifier specifying the
selected vehicle configuration.

Current US Original Classification - CCOR (1):
   705/27

Other Reference Publication - OREF (2):
   Lipin, David, "CarsDirect Shifts Gears Again Conducts Search",Mar. 6, 2000.
Adweek, vol. 41, No. 10, p. 5.*

US-PAT-NO: 6496206

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6496206 B1

TITLE: Displaying thumbnail images of document pages in an electronic folder

DATE-ISSUED: December 17, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY		
STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	
Mernyk; Paul A.			Palo Alto
CA	N/A	N/A	
Martin; Steven			Topsfield
MA	N/A	N/A	
Prasad; Bevra S.			Milpitas
CA	N/A	N/A	
Salgado; David L.			Victor
NY	N/A	N/A	

US-CL-CURRENT: 345/835, 345/764

ABSTRACT:

In a graphical user interface for accessing a large number of files, such as text files, graphics files, or spreadsheets, a system allows quick glances of "thumbnails" or highly reduced versions of the files. When a folder is opened, every file in the folder is opened as a background operation and thumbnail data, such as a reduced image or text summary of the file, is derived and retained in a cache folder for quick access. When a cursor is touched, without a mouse-click, to a particular icon in the opened folder, the thumbnail for the file identified by the icon is accessed from the cache folder and displayed.

19 Claims, 5 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 5

---------- KWIC ---------

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (12):
    U.S.   Pat.   No. 5,500,936 discloses a multi-media
slide presentation system
which can be superimposed on a standard computer GUI.
Each slide in the
multimedia slide presentation may contain photographs,
text, graphics, and
charts. By actuating and releasing a control button of
the mouse or trackball,
a pop-up menu is displayed to aid the user to make
selections that operate on
the slides and objects on the slides. The text menu
items may also indicate
pop-up menus when selected.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (11):
    FIGS. 3A and 3B show a simplified flowchart showing
the basic operation of
the method of the present invention. The functionality
shown in the FIGS. can
be embodied in code which is superimposed on the basic
functions of an
operating system, such as through the
commercially-available utility "Shell
Name Space Extension" in Microsoft.RTM. Windows 95.TM..
Following the
flowchart, the method of the present invention is
activated when a user opens a
folder containing files therein, causing the folder space
to be displayed on
the GUI with icons therein, each icon corresponding to a
file such as shown in
FIG. 1 above. Once the folder having the files is
opened, every file in the
folder is opened as a background operation and thumbnail
data is derived
therefrom, such as at step 100. In the case of a purely
graphics file such as
in .xif or .jpg or .tif format, this thumbnail data can
be readily derived by
sampling the graphical data to yield the relatively small
thumbnail that will
be displayed. In the case of a file, such as in a
word-processing format,
which is known to be text-exclusive or text-intensive,

the thumbnail data can
be derived by text-intensive means: For example, programs exist in the prior
art which can be used to pull out what are determined to be "key words" of the
text document, or the text data can be examined for the presence of proper
names or text in a headline-type typeface. More sophisticated programs can
even be used to synthesize an abstract of a quantity of text.

US-PAT-NO: 6029195

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6029195 A

TITLE: System for customized electronic identification of

desirable objects

DATE-ISSUED: February 22, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY
STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY	
Herz; Frederick S. M.	Davis
WV 26260 N/A	

US-CL-CURRENT: 725/116, 707/10 , 725/93

ABSTRACT:

This invention relates to customized electronic identification of desirable
objects, such as news articles, in an electronic media environment, and in
particular to a system that automatically constructs both a "target profile"
for each target object in the electronic media based, for example, on the
frequency with which each word appears in an article relative to its overall
frequency of use in all articles, as well as a "target profile interest
summary" for each user, which target profile interest summary describes the
user's interest level in various types of target objects. The system then
evaluates the target profiles against the users' target profile interest
summaries to generate a user-customized rank ordered listing of target objects
most likely to be of interest to each user so that the user can select from
among these potentially relevant target objects, which were automatically
selected by this system from the plethora of target objects that are profiled
on the electronic media. Users' target profile interest summaries can be used

to efficiently organize the distribution of information
in a large scale system
consisting of many users interconnected by means of a
communication network.
Additionally, a cryptographically-based pseudonym proxy
server is provided to
ensure the privacy of a user's target profile interest
summary, by giving the
user control over the ability of third parties to access
this summary and to
identify or contact the user.

15 Claims, 17 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 13

---------- KWIC ---------

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (10):
   Apple's Advanced Technology Group has developed an
interface based on the
concept of a "pile of articles". This interface is
described in an article
titled "A 'pile' metaphor for supporting casual
organization of information in
Human factors in computer systems" published in CHI '92
Conf. Proc. 627-634
by Mander, R. G. Salomon and Y. Wong. 1992. Another
article titled "Content
awareness in a file system interface: implementing the
'pile' metaphor for
organizing information" was published in 16 Ann. Int'l
SIGIR '93, ACM 260-269
by Rose E. D. et al. The Apple interface uses word
frequencies to automatically
file articles by picking the pile most similar to the
article being filed.
This system functions to cluster articles into subpiles,
determine key words
for indexing by picking the words with the largest TF/IDF
(where TF is term
(word) frequency and IDF is the inverse document
frequency) and label piles by
using the determined key words.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (18):

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the system for customized
electronic identification of desirable objects uses a fundamental methodology
for accurately and efficiently matching users and target objects by
automatically calculating, using and updating profile information that
describes both the users' interests and the target objects' characteristics.
The target objects may be published articles, purchasable items, or even other
people, and their properties are stored, and/or represented and/or denoted on
the electronic media as (digital) data. Examples of target objects can
include, but are not limited to: a newspaper story of potential interest, a
movie to watch, an item to buy, e-mail to receive, or another person to
correspond with. In one suggested application, the user is a sender of email
(which may have originated from the user for or from another external source
such as from outside of a large organization) and the target objects are users
who might be considered most appropriate based upon previous messages which
they have received, read and responded to. Accordingly, like other target
objects, users (or user pseudonyms) in accordance with their user profiles (or
portions of which they have disclosed) may be organized and browsed within an
automatically generated menu tree, which is below described in detail. In all
these cases, the information delivery process in the preferred embodiment is
based on determining the similarity between a profile for the target object and
the profiles of target objects for which the user (or a similar user) has
provided positive feedback in the past. The individual data that describe a
target object and constitute the target object's profile are herein termed
"attributes" of the target object. Attributes may include, but are not limited
to, the following: (1) long pieces of text (a newspaper story, a movie review,
a product description or an advertisement), (2) short

pieces of text (name of a
movie's director, name of town from which an
advertisement was placed, name of
the language in which an article was written), (3)
numeric measurements (price
of a product, rating given to a movie, reading level of a
book), (4)
associations with other types of objects (list of actors
in a movie, list of
persons who have read a document). Any of these
attributes, but especially the
numeric ones, may correlate with the quality of the
target object, such as
measures of its popularity (how often it is accessed) or
of user satisfaction
(number of complaints received).

US-PAT-NO: 5754939

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5754939 A

TITLE: System for generation of user
profiles for a system for
                        customized electronic
identification of desirable objects

DATE-ISSUED: May 19, 1998

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY
STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY
Herz; Frederick S. M.   Davis
WV   26260   N/A
Eisner; Jason M.   Philadelphia
PA   19107   N/A
Ungar; Lyle H.   Philadelphia
PA   19103   N/A
Marcus; Mitchell P.   Philadelphia
PA   19119   N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 455/3.04, 709/219 , 715/501.1 , 725/34

ABSTRACT:

    This invention relates to customized electronic
identification of desirable
objects, such as news articles, in an electronic media
environment, and in
particular to a system that automatically constructs both
a "target profile"
for each target object in the electronic media based, for
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frequency with which each word appears in an article
relative to its overall
frequency of use in all articles, as well as a "target
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summary" for each user, which target profile interest
summary describes the
user's interest level in various types of target objects.
 The system then
evaluates the target profiles against the users' target
profile interest
summaries to generate a user-customized rank ordered
listing of target objects
most likely to be of interest to each user so that the

user can select from
among these potentially relevant target objects, which were automatically
selected by this system from the plethora of target objects that are profiled
on the electronic media. Users' target profile interest summaries can be used
to efficiently organize the distribution of information in a large scale system
consisting of many users interconnected by means of a communication network.
Additionally, a cryptographically-based pseudonym proxy server is provided to
ensure the privacy of a user's target profile interest summary, by giving the
user control over the ability of third parties to access this summary and to
identify or contact the user.

22 Claims, 17 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 13

---------- KWIC ---------

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (10):
   Apple's Advanced Technology Group has developed an interface based on the
concept of a "pile of articles". This interface is described in an article
titled "A 'pile' metaphor for supporting casual organization of information in
Human factors in computer systems" published in CHI '92Conf. Proc. 627-634 by
Mander, R. G. Salomon and Y. Wong. 1992. Another article titled "Content
awareness in a file system interface: implementing the 'pile' metaphor for
organizing information" was published in 16 Ann. Int'l SIGIR '93, ACM 260-269
by Rose E. D. et al. The Apple interface uses word frequencies to automatically
file articles by picking the pile most similar to the article being filed.
This system functions to cluster articles into subpiles, determine key words
for indexing by picking the words with the largest TF/IDF

(where TF is term
(word) frequency and IDF is the inverse document
frequency) and label piles by
using the determined key words.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (18):
    In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the
system for customized
electronic identification of desirable objects uses a
fundamental methodology
for accurately and efficiently matching users and target
objects by
automatically calculating, using and updating profile
information that
describes both the users' interests and the target
objects' characteristics.
The target objects may be published articles, purchasable
items, or even other
people, and their properties are stored, and/or
represented and/or denoted on
the electronic media as (digital) data. Examples of
target objects can
include, but are not limited to: a newspaper story of
potential interest, a
movie to watch, an item to buy, e-mail to receive, or
another person to
correspond with. In all these cases, the information
delivery process in the
preferred embodiment is based on determining the
similarity between a profile
for the target object and the profiles of target objects
for which the user (or
a similar user) has provided positive feedback in the
past. The individual
data that describe a target object and constitute the
target object's profile
are herein termed "attributes" of the target object.
Attributes may include,
but are not limited to, the following: (1) long pieces of
text (a newspaper
story, a movie review, a product description or an
advertisement), (2) short
pieces of text (name of a movie's director, name of town
from which an
advertisement was placed, name of the language in which
an article was
written), (3) numeric measurements (price of a product,
rating given to a
movie, reading level of a book), (4) associations with
other types of objects

(list of actors in a movie, list of persons who have read
a document). Any of
these attributes, but especially the numeric ones, may
correlate with the
quality of the target object, such as measures of its
popularity (how often it
is accessed) or of user satisfaction (number of
complaints received).

rief Summary Text - BSTX (17):
    Preferably, the product characterizations are derived
from text
characterizations of each of the products and

US-PAT-NO: 6317722

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6317722 B1

TITLE: Use of electronic shopping carts
to generate personal
recommendations

DATE-ISSUED: November 13, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY
STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY
Jacobi; Jennifer A.   Seattle
WA   N/A   N/A
Benson; Eric A.   Seattle
WA   N/A   N/A
Linden; Gregory D.   Seattle
WA   N/A   N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/14, 705/27 , 707/102

ABSTRACT:

    A computer-implemented service recommends products or
other items to a user
based on a set of items known to be of interest to the
user, such as a set of
items currently in the user's electronic shopping cart.
In one embodiment, the
service identifies items that are currently in the user's
shopping cart, and
uses these items to generate a list of additional items
that are predicted to
be of interest to the user, wherein an additional item is
selected to include
in the list based in-part upon whether that item is
related to more than one of
the items in the user's shopping cart. The item
relationships are preferably
determined by an off-line process that analyzes user
purchase histories to
identify correlations between item purchases. The
additional items are
preferably displayed to the user when the user views the
contents of the
shopping cart.

42 Claims, 7 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 7

---------- KWIC ---------

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (5):
   One technique commonly used by recommendation services is known as
content-based filtering. Pure content-based systems operate by attempting to
identify items which, based on an analysis of item content, are similar to
items that are known to be of interest to the user. For example, a
content-based Web site recommendation service may operate by parsing the user's
favorite Web pages to generate a profile of commonly-occurring terms, and then
use this profile to search for other Web pages that include some or all of
these terms.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (7):
   Another common recommendation technique is known as collaborative filtering.
In a pure collaborative system, items are recommended to users based on the
interests of a community of users, without any analysis of item content.
Collaborative systems commonly operate by having the users rate individual
items from a list of popular items. Through this process, each user builds a
personal profile of ratings data. To generate recommendations for a particular
user, the user's profile is initially compared to the profiles of other users
to identify one or more "similar users." Items that were rated highly by these
similar users (but which have not yet been rated by the user) are then
recommended to the user. An important benefit of collaborative filtering is
that it overcomes the above-noted deficiencies of content-based filtering.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (11):
    Another problem with both collaborative and
content-based systems is that
they generally do not reflect the current preferences of
the community of
users. In the context of a system that recommends
products to customers, for
example, there is typically no mechanism for favoring
items that are currently
"hot sellers." In addition, existing systems do not
provide a mechanism for
recognizing that the user may be searching for a
particular type or category of
item.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (13):
    The present invention addresses these and other
problems by providing a
computer-implemented service and associated methods for
generating personalized
recommendations of items based on the collective
interests of a community of
users. An important benefit of the service is that the
recommendations are
generated without the need for the user, or any other
users, to rate items.
Another important benefit is that the recommended items
are identified using a
previously-generated table or other mapping structure
which maps individual
items to lists of "similar" items. The item similarities
reflected by the
table are based at least upon correlations between the
interests of users in
particular items.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (15):
    In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the
mappings of items to
similar items ("item-to-item mappings") are generated
periodically, such as
once per week, by an off-line process which identifies
correlations between
known interests of users in particular items. For
example, in the embodiment
described in detail below, the mappings are generating by
periodically

analyzing user purchase histories to identify
correlations between purchases of .
items. The similarity between two items is preferably
measured by determining
the number of users that have an interest in both items
relative to the number
of users that have an interest in either item (e.g.,
items A and B are highly
similar because a relatively large portion of the users
that bought one of the
items also bought the other item). The item-to-item
mappings could also
incorporate other types of similarities, including
content-based similarities
extracted by analyzing item descriptions or content.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (16):
   To generate a set of recommendations for a given user,
the service retrieves
from the table the similar items lists corresponding to
items already known to .
be of interest to the user, and then appropriately
combines these lists to
generate a list of recommended items. For example, if
there are three items
that are known to be of interest to the user (such as
three items the user
recently purchased), the service may retrieve the similar
items lists for these
three items from the table and combine these lists.
Because the item-to-item
mappings are regenerated periodically based on up-to-date
sales data, the
recommendations tend to reflect the current buying trends
of the community.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (17):
   In accordance with another aspect of the invention,
the similar items lists
read from the table may be appropriately weighted (prior
to being combined)
based on indicia of the user's affinity for, or current
interest in, the
corresponding items of known interest. For example, the
similar items list for
a book that was purchased in the last week may be
weighted more heavily than
the similar items list for a book that was purchased four
months ago.

Weighting a similar items list heavily has the effect of increasing the
likelihood that the items in that list will be included in the recommendations
that are ultimately presented to the user.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (19):
   Another feature of the invention involves using the current and/or recent
contents of the user's shopping cart as inputs to the recommendation service
(or to another type of recommendation service which generates recommendations
given a unary listing of items). For example, if the user currently has three
items in his or her shopping cart, these three items can be treated as the
items of known interest for purposes of generating recommendations, in which
case the recommendations may be generated and displayed automatically when the
user views the shopping cart contents. Using the current and/or recent
shopping cart contents as inputs tends to produce recommendations that are
highly correlated to the current short-term interests of the user--even if
these short term interest differ significantly from the user's general
preferences. For example, if the user is currently searching for books on a
particular topic and has added several such books to the shopping cart, this
method will more likely produce other books that involve the same or similar
topics.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (20):
   One aspect of the invention is thus a computer-implemented method of
recommending items to a user. The method comprises identifying a plurality of
items that are currently in the user's shopping cart; and using the plurality
of items in the user's shopping cart to generate a list of additional items
that are predicted to be of interest to the user, wherein an additional item is
selected for inclusion in the list based in-part upon

whether that additional
item is similar to more than one of the plurality of
items in the user's
shopping cart. The list of additional items is displayed
to the user when the
user views contents of the shopping cart.

Drawing Description Text - DRTX (5):
    FIG. 3 illustrates a sequence of steps that are
performed by the table
generation process of FIG. 1 to generate a similar items
table, and illustrates
temporary data structures generated during the process.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (5):
    The Amazon.com Web site includes functionality for
allowing users to search,
browse, and make purchases from an online catalog of
several million book
titles, music titles, video titles, and other types of
items. Using a shopping
cart feature of the site, users can add and remove items
to/from a personal
shopping cart which is persistent over multiple sessions.
 (As used herein, a
"shopping cart" is a data structure and associated code
which keeps track of
items that have been selected by a user for possible
purchase.) For example, a
user can modify the contents of the shopping cart over a
period of time, such
as one week, and then proceed to a check out area of the
site to purchase the ·
shopping cart contents.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (9):
    The recommendations are generated using a table which
maps items to lists of
"similar" items ("similar items lists"), without the need
for users to rate any
items (although ratings data may optionally be used).
For example, if there
are three items that are known to be of interest to a
particular user (such as
three items the user recently purchased), the service may
retrieve the similar
items lists for these three items from the table, and
appropriately combine

these lists (as described below) to generate the recommendations.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (10):
    In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the mappings of items to
similar items ("item-to-item mappings") are generated periodically, such as
once per week, from data which reflects the collective interests of the
community of users. More specifically, the item-to-item mappings are generated
by an off-line process which identifies correlations between known interests of
users in particular items. For example, in the embodiment described in detail
below, the mappings are generating by analyzing user purchase histories to
identify correlations between purchases of particular items (e.g., items A and
B are similar because a relatively large portion of the users that purchased
item A also bought item B). The item-to-item mappings could also reflect other
types of similarities, including content-based similarities extracted by
analyzing item descriptions or content.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (12):
    In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the similar items lists
read from the table are appropriately weighted (prior to being combined) based
on indicia of the user's affinity for or current interest in the corresponding
items of known interest. For example, in one embodiment described below, if
the item of known interest was previously rated by the user (such as through
use of the BookMatcher service), the rating is used to weight the corresponding
similar items list. Similarly, the similar items list for a book that was
purchased in the last week may be weighted more heavily than the similar items
list for a book that was purchased four months ago.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (14):

Using the current and/or recent shopping cart contents as inputs tends to
produce recommendations that are highly correlated to the current short-term
interests of the user--even if these short term interests are not reflected by
the user's purchase history. For example, if the user is currently searching
for a father's day gift and has selected several books for prospective
purchase, this method will have a tendency to identify other books that are
well suited for the gift recipient.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (19):
   As depicted by FIG. 1, the Web server 32 communicates with various external
components 40 of the site. These external components 40 include, for example,
a search engine and associated database (not shown) for enabling users to
interactively search the catalog for particular items. Also included within
the external components 40 are various order processing modules (not shown) for
accepting and processing orders, and for updating the purchase histories of the
users.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (29):
   The recommendation services components 44 also include a recommendation
process 52, a similar items table 60, and an off-line table generation process
66, which collectively implement the Recommendation Service. As depicted by
the arrows in FIG. 1, the recommendation process 52 generates personal
recommendations based on information stored within the similar items table 60,
and based on the items that are known to be of interest ("items of known
interest") to the particular user.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (31):
   The various processes 50, 52, 66 of the recommendation services may run, for
example, on one or more Unix or NT based workstations or

physical servers (not
shown) of the Web site 30. The similar items table 60 is
preferably stored as
a B-tree data structure to permit efficient look-up, and
may be replicated
across multiple machines (together with the associated
code of the
recommendation process 52) to accommodate heavy loads.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (32):
    II. Similar Items Table (FIG. 1)

Detailed Description Text - DETX (33):
    The general form and content of the similar items
table 60 will now be
described with reference to FIG. 1. As this table can
take on many alternative
forms, the details of the table are intended to
illustrate, and not limit, the
scope of the invention.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (34):
    As indicated above, the similar items table 60 maps
items to lists of
similar items based at least upon the collective
interests of the community of
users. The similar items table 60 is preferably
generated periodically (e.g.,
once per week) by the off-line table generation process
66. The table
generation process 66 generates the table 60 from data
that reflects the
collective interests of the community of users. In the
embodiment described in
detail herein, the similar items table is generated
exclusively from the
purchase histories of the community of users (as depicted
in FIG. 1). In other
embodiments, the table 60 may additionally or
alternatively be generated from
other indicia of user-item interests, including indica
based on users viewing
activities, shopping cart activities, and item rating
profiles. For example,
the table 60 could be built exclusively from the present
and/or recent shopping
cart contents of users. The similar items table 60 could
also reflect

non-collaborative type item similarities, including content-based similarities
derived by comparing item contents or descriptions.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (35):
     Each entry in the similar items table 60 is preferably in the form of a
mapping of a popular item 62 to a corresponding list 64 of similar items
("similar items lists"). As used herein, a "popular" item is an item which
satisfies some pre-specified popularity criteria. For example, in the
embodiment described herein, an item is treated as popular of it has been
purchased by more than 30 customers during the life of the Web site. Using
this criteria produces a set of popular items (and thus a recommendation
service) which grows over time. The similar items list 64 for a given popular
item 62 may include other popular items.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (37):
     Each similar items list 64 consists of the N (e.g., 20) items which, based
on correlations between purchases of items, are deemed to be the most closely
related to the respective popular item 62. Each item in the similar items list
64 is stored together with a commonality index ("CI") value which indicates the
relatedness of that item to the popular item 62, based on sales of the
respective items. A relatively high commonality index for a pair of items ITEM
A and ITEM B indicates that a relatively large percentage of users who bought
ITEM A also bought ITEM B (and vice versa). A relatively low commonality index
for ITEM A and ITEM B indicates that a relatively small percentage of the users
who bought ITEM A also bought ITEM B (and vice versa).
As described below, the
similar items lists are generated, for each popular item, by selecting the N
other items that have the highest commonality index values. Using this method,
ITEM A may be included in ITEM B's similar items list

even though ITEM B in not
present in ITEM A's similar items list.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (38):
    In the embodiment depicted by FIG. 1, the items are
represented within the
similar items table 60 using product IDs, such as ISBNs
or other identifiers.
Alternatively, the items could be represented within the
table by title ID,
where each title ID corresponds to a given "work"
regardless of its media
format. In either case, different items which correspond
to the same work,
such as the hardcover and paperback versions of a given
book or the VCR
cassette and DVD versions of a given video, are
preferably treated as a unit
for purposes of generating recommendations.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (44):
    As illustrated by FIG. 2, the first step (step 80) of
the
recommendations-generation process involves identifying a
set of items that are
of known interest to the user. The "knowledge" of the
user's interest can be
based on explicit indications of interest (e.g., the user
rated the item
highly) or implicit indications of interest (e.g., the
user added the item to a
shopping cart). Items that are not "popular items"
within the similar items
table 60 can optionally be ignored during this step.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (46):
    For each item of known interest, the service retrieves
the corresponding
similar items list 64 from the similar items table 60
(step 82), if such a list
exists. If no entries exist in the table 60 for any of
the items of known
interest, the process 52 may be terminated;
alternatively, the process could
attempt to identify additional items of interest, such as
by accessing other
sources of interest information.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (47):
   In step 84, the similar items lists 64 are optionally weighted based on
information about the user's affinity for the corresponding items of known
interest. For example, a similar items list 64 may be weighted heavily if the
user gave the corresponding popular item a rating of "5" on a scale or 1-5, or
if the user purchased multiple copies of the item. Weighting a similar items
list 64 heavily has the effect of increasing the likelihood that the items in
that list we be included in the recommendations that are ultimately presented
to the user. In one implementation described below, the user is presumed to
have a greater affinity for recently purchased items over earlier purchased
items.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (48):
   The similar items lists 64 are preferably weighted by multiplying the
commonality index values of the list by a weighting value. The commonality
index values as weighted by any applicable weighting value are referred to
herein as "scores." In other embodiments, the recommendations may be generated
without weighting the similar items lists 64.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (49):
   If multiple similar items lists 64 are retrieved in step 82, the lists are
appropriately combined (step 86), such as by merging the lists while summing
the scores of like items. The resulting list is then sorted (step 88) in order
of highest-to-lowest score. In step 90, the sorted list is filtered to remove
unwanted items. The items removed during the filtering process may include,
for example, items that have already been purchased or rated by the user, and
items that fall outside any product group (such as music or books), product
category (such as non-fiction), or content rating (such

as PG or adult)
designated by the user. The filtering step could
alternatively be performed at
a different stage of the process, such as during the
retrieval of the similar
items lists from the table 60. The result of step 90 is
a list
("recommendations list") of other items to be recommended
to the user.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (52):
    IV. Generation of Similar Items Table (FIGS. 3 and 4)

Detailed Description Text - DETX (53):
    The table-generation process 66 is preferably executed
periodically (e.g.,
once a week) to generate a similar items table 60 that
reflects the most recent
purchase history data. The recommendation process 52
uses the most recently
generated version of the table 60 to generate
recommendations.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (54):
    FIG. 3 illustrates the sequence of steps that are
performed by the table
generation process 66 to build the similar items table
60. The general form of
temporary data structures that are generated during the
process are shown at
the right of the drawing. As will be appreciated by
those skilled in the art,
any of a variety of alternative methods could be used to
generate the table 60.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (56):
    The product IDs may be converted to title IDs during
this process, or when
the table 60 is later used to generate recommendations,
so that different
versions of an item (e.g., hardcover and paperback) are
represented as a single
item. This may be accomplished, for example, by using a
separate database
which maps product IDs to title IDs. To generate a
similar items table that
strongly reflects the current tastes of the community,

the purchase histories
retrieved in step 100 can be limited to a specific time
period, such as the
last six months.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (62):
    Thus, even though items P and Y have more customers in
common than items P
and X, items P and X are treated as being more similar
than items P and Y. This
result desirably reflects the fact that the percentage of
item_X customers that
bought item_P (6.7%) is much greater than the percentage
of item_Y customers
that bought item_P (0.08%).

Detailed Description Text - DETX (66):
    In step 116, the sorted other_items lists are
truncated to length N to
generate the similar items lists, and the similar items
lists are stored in a
B-tree table structure for efficient look-up

Detailed Description Text - DETX (67):
    As indicated above, any of a variety of other methods
for evaluating
similarities between items could be incorporated into the
table generation
process 66. For example, the table generation process
could compare item
contents and/or use previously-assigned product
categorizations as additional
indicators of item similarities. An important benefit of
the FIG. 3 method,
however, is that the items need not contain any content
that is amenable to
feature extraction techniques, and need not be
pre-assigned to any categories.
For example, the method can be used to generate a similar
items table given
nothing more than the product IDs of a set of products
and user purchase
histories with respect to these products.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (68):
    Another important benefit of the Recommendation
Service is that the bulk of

the processing (the generation of the similar items table 60) is performed by
an off-line process. Once this table has been generated, personalized
recommendations can be generated rapidly and efficiently, without sacrificing
breadth of analysis.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (72):
   FIG. 5 illustrates the sequence of steps that are performed by the Instant
Recommendations service to generate personal recommendations. Steps 180-194 in
FIG. 5 correspond, respectively, to steps 80-94 in FIG. 2. In step 180, the
process 52 identifies all popular items that have been purchased by the user
(from a particular shopping cart, if designated) or rated by the user, within
the last six months. In step 182, the process retrieves the similar items
lists 64 for these popular items from the similar items table 60.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (73):
   In step 184, the process 52 weights each similar items list based on the
duration since the associated popular item was purchased by the user (with
recently-purchased items weighted more heavily), or if the popular item was not
purchased, the rating given to the popular item by the user. The formula used
to generate the weight values to apply to each similar items list is listed in
C in Table 2. In this formula, "is_Purchased" is a boolean variable which
indicates whether the popular item was purchased, "rating" is the rating value
(1-5), if any, assigned to the popular item by the user, "order_date" is the
date/time (measured in seconds since 1970) the popular item was purchased,
"now" is the current date/time (measured in seconds since 1970), and "6 months"
is six months in seconds.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (76):

The similar items lists 64 are weighted in step 184 by multiplying the CI
values of the list by the corresponding weight value. For example, if the
weight value for a given popular item is ten, and the similar items list 64 for
the popular item is

Detailed Description Text - DETX (78):
    the weighted similar items list would be:

Detailed Description Text - DETX (80):
    The numerical values in the weighted similar items lists are referred to as
"scores."

Detailed Description Text - DETX (81):
    In step 186, the weighted similar items lists are merged (if multiple lists
exist) to form a single list. During this step, the scores of like items are
summed. For example, if a given other_item appears in three different similar
items lists 64, the three scores (including any negative scores) are summed to
produce a composite score.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (88):
    The shopping cart recommendations service is preferably invoked
automatically when the user displays the contents of a shopping cart that
contains more than a threshold number (e.g., 1) of popular items. The service
generates the recommendations based exclusively on the current contents of the
shopping cart. As a result, the recommendations tend to be highly correlated
to the user's current shopping interests. In other implementations, the
recommendations may also be based on other items that are deemed to be of
current interest to the user, such as items in the recent shopping cart
contents of the user and/or items recently viewed by the user. Further, other
indications of the user's current shopping interests

could be incorporated into
the process. For example, any search terms typed into
the site's search engine
during the user's browsing session could be captured and
used to perform
content-based filtering of the recommended items list.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (89):
   FIG. 7 illustrates the sequence of steps that are
performed by the shopping
cart recommendations service to generate a set of
shopping-cart-based
recommendations. In step 282, the similar items list for
each popular item in
the shopping cart is retrieved from the similar items
table 60. The similar
items list for one or more additional items that are
deemed to be of current
interest could also be retrieved during this step, such
as the list for an item
recently deleted from the shopping cart or recently
viewed for an extended
period of time.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (90):
   In step 286, these similar items lists are merged
while summing the
commonality index (CI) values of like items. In step
288, the resulting list
is sorted from highest-to-lowest score. In step 290, the
list is filtered to
remove any items that exist in the shopping cart or have
been purchased or
rated by the user. Finally, in step 294, the top M
(e.g., 5) items of the list
are returned as recommendations. The recommendations are
preferably presented
to the user on the same Web page (not shown) as the
shopping cart contents.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (92):
   The various uses of shopping cart contents to generate
recommendations as
described above can be applied to other types of
recommendation systems,
including content-based systems. For example, the
current and/or past contents
of a shopping cart can be used to generate

recommendations in a system in which
mappings of items to lists of similar items are generated from a computer-based
comparison of item contents. Methods for performing content-based similarity
analyses of items are well known in the art, and are therefore not described
herein.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (93):
   Although this invention has been described in terms of certain preferred
embodiments, other embodiments that are apparent to those of ordinary skill in
the art are also within the scope of this invention. For example, although the
embodiments described herein employ item lists, other programming methods for
keeping track of and combining sets of similar items can be used. Accordingly,
the scope of the present invention is intended to be defined only by reference
to the appended claims.

Claims Text - CLTX (2):
   a computer-readable medium embodying a non-user-specific data structure
which maps items from the database to sets of similar items from the database;
and

Claims Text - CLTX (5):
   (b) for each item identified in step (a), accessing the non-user-specific
data structure to identify a corresponding set of similar items, to thereby
identify a plurality of sets of similar items;

Claims Text - CLTX (6):
   (c) combining the sets of similar items identified in step (b) to generate a
ranked set of similar items in which a similar item's ranking reflects whether'
that similar item appears within more than one of said sets;   and

Claims Text - CLTX (7):
   (d) presenting at least some of the items of the
ranked set of similar items
to the user as recommendations.

Claims Text - CLTX (12):
   6. The system of claim 1, wherein the data structure
maps items to similar
items based at least upon correlations between purchases
of items by users.

Claims Text - CLTX (13):
   7. The system of claim 1, wherein the data structure
maps items to similar
items based at least upon a content-based similarity
analysis of items.

Claims Text - CLTX (14):
   8. The system of claim 1, wherein the sets of similar
items in the data
structure include similarity index values, each index
value indicating a degree
of similarity between a reference item and a similar
item, and wherein step (c)
comprises combining similarity index values of like
items.

Claims Text - CLTX (15):
   9. The system of claim 1, further comprising
filtering out similar items
identified in step (b) to remove items already purchased
by the user.

Claims Text - CLTX (19):
   (b) for each item identified in step (a), accessing a
non-user-specific data
structure which maps items to similar items to identify a
corresponding set of
similar items, to thereby identify multiple sets of
similar items;

Claims Text - CLTX (20):
   (c) combining the multiple sets of similar items to
form a ranked set of
similar items in which an item's ranking reflects whether

that item appears
within more than one of the multiple sets;   and

Claims Text - CLTX (21):
    (d) recommending at least some of the items of the
ranked set of similar
items to the user.

Claims Text - CLTX (23):
    13.   The method of claim 11, wherein step (b)
comprises accessing a data
structure that maps items to similar items based at least
upon correlations
between purchases of items by users.

Claims Text - CLTX (24):
    14.   The method of claim 11, wherein step (b)
comprises accessing a data
structure that maps items to similar items based at least
upon a content-based
similarity analysis of items.

Claims Text - CLTX (29):
    (c) using the data structure to identify a second
plurality of items that
are similar to one or more of the first plurality of
items and

Claims Text - CLTX (38):
    (d) using the data structure to identify a second
plurality of items that
are similar to one or more of the first plurality of
items;   and

Claims Text - CLTX (39):
    (e) selecting, from the second plurality of items, a
subset of items to
recommend to the user, wherein an item is selected based
in part on whether
that item is similar to more than one of the first
plurality of items.

Claims Text - CLTX (49):
    using the plurality of items in the user's shopping

cart to generate a list
of additional items that are predicted to be of interest
to the user, wherein
an additional item is selected for inclusion in the list
based in-part upon
whether that additional item is similar to more than one
of the plurality of
items in the user's shopping cart;   and

Claims Text - CLTX (52):
    (a) for each of the plurality of items, accessing a
data structure which
maps items to sets of similar items to identify a
corresponding set of similar
items;   and

Claims Text - CLTX (53):
    (b) combining the sets of similar items identified in
(a) to generate a
ranked set of items in which items are ranked according
to similarity to the
plurality of items in the shopping cart.

Claims Text - CLTX (54):
    30.   The method as in claim 29, wherein (b) comprises
increasing a ranking
of an item that is similar to more than one of the
plurality of items in the
shopping cart.

Claims Text - CLTX (55):
    31.   The method as in claim 28, wherein using the
plurality of items to
generate a list comprises determining whether an item is
similar to more than
one of the plurality of items in the shopping cart.

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY
STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY
Wiecha; Charles Francis   New York
NY   N/A   N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26, 235/385

ABSTRACT:

    Current corporate purchasing procedures are
labor-intensive and therefore
costly. The system enables an employee who needs an item
which must be ordered
from a supplier to select the item from an electronic
catalog displayed on a
personal computer and submit an order for approval and
processing directly,
by-passing both the normal paper approvals and the manual
verification of the
order by the organization's Purchasing department. It
achieves this by means
of an electronic catalog accessible from the employee's
own personal computer,
and a computer network and associated services linking
the enterprise to one or
more suppliers.

6 Claims, 12 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 12

---------- KWIC ---------

Detailed Description Text - DETX (4):
    2. The employee selects items from the catalogs preferably with a mouse or
similar device. Catalog items may be displayed with pictures, descriptions and
other information in a fashion similar to a paper catalog. Where similar items
are available, a "Compare" icon can be selected on the screen, causing the
items to be listed side by side, with differences highlighted. Items can be
located by searching down the taxonomy tree of the catalog (much as one
searches through a paper catalog by finding the appropriate general section and
then looking for a particular item), or by entering a search word or phrase.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (63):
    Search: Keyword, Power Search (Attribute, Taxonomy).

Detailed Description Text - DETX (65):
    This uses code from the Folder Editor and Search Engine, with additional
functions, to enable Operations staff to:

Detailed Description Text - DETX (133):
    Based on index search.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (134):
    Index search is launched with user's action on an icon represented by a
magnifying glass.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (135):
    Search by product type or manufacturer's name.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (200):
    Search for specific groups of POs and purchase requests by Requester Name,
Requester Date, and Request Number. The search results can be grouped into a
chapter.

Current US Original Classification - CCOR (1):
   705/26